

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

KELSIE HUTCHINSON

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 14, 2008

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Kelsie Hutchinson who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Kelsie Hutchinson is a senior at Arvada High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Kelsie Hutchinson is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Kelsie Hutchinson for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her high school career to her college career and future accomplishments.

HONORING TIMOTHY ANDERSEN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 14, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Timothy D. Andersen of Parkville, Missouri. Timothy is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1419, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Timothy has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Timothy has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Timothy D. Andersen for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING EMILE LASALLE

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 14, 2008

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Emile LaSalle upon his recognition at the 2008 Future Farmers of America Blue and Gold Gala. Mr. LaSalle will

be honored by the California FFA Foundation on Saturday, April 19, 2008 at PR Farms in Clovis, California.

Mr. LaSalle was born in 1918 in Bellflower, California to French immigrant parents. He grew up working on his family's farm and dairy after school and on the weekends. He spoke only French when he began school. This did not hold him back; he graduated from Excelsior High School at seventeen years old. In high school he participated on the track and tennis teams. During his junior year, he joined Future Farmers of America and successfully competed in livestock judging and public speaking.

Mr. LaSalle was awarded a one hundred dollar scholarship for college and decided to attend Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. He worked his way through college milking cows. It was in the dairy barn where he met Helen McPhee, the daughter of Cal Poly President Julian McPhee. Mr. LaSalle completed his education at Utah State and in 1942 married Helen. Shortly after finishing school, he began his first agriculture teaching assignment at Manteca High School.

In 1944, Mr. LaSalle enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served until 1946. In 1948 he and his family moved to Hanford, California and entered into the dairy business. In 1953 he accepted a position at Hanford High School teaching agriculture. After teaching for 13 years, Mr. LaSalle assumed the position of South Coast Regional Supervisor for the California State Department of Education.

1976 brought retirement. This did not slow Mr. LaSalle down. Rather he began farming alfalfa in the Creston area. He became active on the Atascadero School Board and followed other political endeavors. At 79 years old he purchased an 80 acre farm in Stratford and has expanded his farm to 800 acres. Nearing his 90th birthday he continues to grow alfalfa and oat hay. He also still often visits the Cal Poly campus, visiting and discussing agriculture with the students. Mr. LaSalle is the father of six, grandfather of seventeen and great-grandfather of eight.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Emile LaSalle for sharing his passion for agriculture and dedication to agriculture education and the Future Farmers of America. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Emile LaSalle many years of continued success.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING
SHAUN O'KEEFE FOR WINNING
THE BOYS' DIVISION I STATE
BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 14, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Shaun O'Keefe showed hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball; and

Whereas, Shaun O'Keefe was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Shaun O'Keefe always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the court; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Shaun O'Keefe on winning the Boys' Division I State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship he has demonstrated during the 2007–2008 basketball season.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SALVATION ARMY OF SYRACUSE

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 14, 2008

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 125th anniversary of the Salvation Army of Syracuse, New York.

Founded in 1883, the Salvation Army of Syracuse, New York, was started by four young volunteers who had a great desire to serve others. This organization became well established in the area and by 1898 was providing those in need with food and shelter.

Since its humble beginnings, the Salvation Army of the Syracuse Area has seen tremendous growth. Serving over 30,000 people annually, 2,000 volunteers give generously of their time and talents. This fine organization provides valuable programs to those in need, including a food pantry, day care, counseling, and housing.

Over the years, my office has had the privilege of working with both former Executive Director Bobbie Schofield and current Executive Director Linda Wright. Their tireless dedication and professionalism have always served as an inspiration. In particular, I continue to be impressed by the caliber of programs developed by the Salvation Army in response to the ever changing needs of our community.

The Salvation Army of Syracuse has graciously served others, and I am proud to recognize it today. I congratulate Executive Director Linda M. Wright and her dedicated staff—both past and present—on reaching this milestone. On behalf of the people of the 25th district of New York, I thank them for their 125 years of service that has been such a positive influence on the community.

TRIBUTE TO ED LAVERY

HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 14, 2008

Mr. REYNOLDS. Madam Speaker, with great appreciation I rise today to honor a dedicated and highly respected firefighter, Ed

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Lavery, who for more than 50 years steadfastly served and protected the people of Williamsville, New York.

Even as a young boy growing up in Williamsville, Ed was drawn to fire engines. Often Ed would jump on his bike as soon as he heard the sound of fire engines to watch the firefighters battle the blaze. Due to his determination and perseverance Ed was forced to part with his bike after he joined the Fire Department when he crashed into a wall after his bikes brakes failed.

With his straight talk and hard work ethic, Ed quickly became captain of the Williamsville Fire Department. He served five years as assistant chief, and in 1974, was elected chief. He also served as president in 1985. Along with serving the Fire Department, Ed worked for the Amherst Engineering Department where he was the general foreman until he retired in 1999. Ed was also a part-time dispatcher at the Amherst Central Fire Alarm Office, which handles emergency calls for all companies protecting Amherst, Clarence and Newstead.

Known for his candor and dry wit, Ed continues to be involved with the department. He often will join the firefighters in responding to Fires and check to make sure the pumbers are operating correctly. None of his family and friends foresee him quitting any time soon.

Thus, Madam Speaker, in recognition of his tremendous service for more than 50 years to the people of Williamsville, NY, for his leadership, his dedication and the lasting legacy he leaves, I ask this honorable body to join me in honoring Ed Lavery.

KAMILA HOSAJA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 14, 2008

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Kamila Hosaja who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Kamila Hosaja is a senior at Arvada High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Kamila Hosaja is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Kamila Hosaja for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her high school career to her college career and future accomplishments.

HONORING ELLIOTT GEOFF
WATKINS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 14, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Elliott Geoff Watkins of

Trimble, Missouri. Elliott is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1008, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Elliott has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Elliott has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Elliott Geoff Watkins for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CONGRATULATING THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA ON RECEIVING AN INVITATION TO JOIN NATO

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 14, 2008

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleague and fellow co-chair of the Croatian Caucus, Congressman VISCLOSKY, to congratulate the Republic of Croatia on receiving an invitation to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, NATO, at the Alliance's recent summit in Bucharest.

The inclusion of Croatia into NATO has been the highest priority of the Congressional Croatian Caucus. I am excited to see a country that has demonstrated leadership in the region of southeast Europe in implementing comprehensive reforms under Euro-Atlantic integrations welcomed into NATO. My Congressional Croatian Caucus co-chair, Congressman PETER VISCLOSKY, and I sent letters to the Secretary of State and Secretary of Defense last November encouraging the administration to express support for this goal.

This historic event serves as important recognition of Croatia's capability to assume responsibilities of NATO membership as well as be an effective contributor to collective defense and security. I am fully convinced that a vote of confidence by the U.S. through expeditious ratification of Croatia's membership into NATO will allow this country to be a more valuable ally to the United States and further enhance the strategic partnership between our two countries.

This partnership stems from deep historical and cultural links between the U.S. and Croatia, commencing with the recognition of America's Independence by the Republic of Dubrovnik in 1783. Since its independence, Croatia has made significant progress in achieving democracy and undertaking comprehensive political, economic and defense reforms on its path to Euro-Atlantic integrations.

Furthermore, the successful recent visit by President George W. Bush to Croatia on April 4-5, 2008, reaffirmed the importance of the U.S.-Croatian relationship and underscored the common values shared by our two countries. In this respect, I would like to enter into the RECORD highlights from the speeches delivered by President George W. Bush, Croatian President Stjepan Mesic and Prime Minister Dr. Ivo Sanader in Zagreb, during the President's recent visit to Croatia on April 4 and 5, 2008.

Finally, many individuals have worked very hard to see this important invitation come to fruition. I would like to especially thank Congressman VISCLOSKY, the multitude of Croatian nationals and Croatian Americans for their steadfast commitment to this cause and to furthering the U.S.-Croatian partnership.

PRESIDENT BUSH AND PRESIDENT MESIC OF
CROATIA, APRIL 4, 2008

PRESIDENT MESIC: . . . Croatia is a small country with a tradition of statehood which can be traced back to the distant 10th century. However, it has appeared on the political map of the world as an independent country less than 20 years ago. The United States is indisputably the leading world power, and its history spans somewhat more than two centuries. However, in such a relatively short time the United States has given, in two global conflicts, an incalculable contribution to the fight against evil and tyranny, and to the victory of freedom and democracy.

I shall not spend too many words in reminding you of the many historic ties between our two countries—from the Croatian community in America and Croatian immigrants like the brilliant inventor Nikola Tesla, through the fact that Dubrovnik, the jewel of the Croatian Adriatic, then an independent republic, was among the first to recognize the young United States, all the way to our alliance in the war against Nazism and fascism and the cooperation we had in the times when Croatia was part of Yugoslavia. That, as I said, is the past, but a past which must be known and on the foundations of which we must continue to build.

And what we have to build, however different we may be—in terms of size, strength and potential, occasionally also in terms of views regarding a particular issue—is a world of peace, security and stability, a world of progress and prosperity for all. We have to build mutual trust and appreciation regardless of differences, even in spite of differences. Constructive talk is possible only in conditions of mutual trust, and the idea that all outstanding issues can and must be resolved by negotiation can become reality only on such terms.

We live in a world encumbered by many problems, and we are faced by many challenges. We can only withstand them together, in a harmonized way, by proceeding from the awareness that problems like global terrorism, regional crises, poverty, global warming and destruction of the environment are problems affecting all of us, perhaps not to the same extent or at the same time; these are indisputably problems affecting every state and we can deal with them, let me repeat, only jointly. Having said that, I certainly have in mind the role which the United Nations can and must play.

I can note with pleasure that the relations between Croatia and the United States are on the upswing. Let me reiterate a point I have made many times: Croatia offers the hand of friendship to everyone wishing to cooperate with it in conditions of equality and satisfaction of mutual interests.

I have already mentioned that Croatia is a small country. We need and seek allies and friends throughout the world— allies and friends who will wish to cooperate with us while respecting our identity and our special qualities, taking due account of their and our national interests, and proceeding from the fact that a policy based on meeting interests is not inconsistent with a policy relying on certain firm principles. I believe that Croatia can have precisely such an ally and friend in the United States.

Let me use this opportunity to thank you for the support given by the United States in

the achievement of two priority goals of Croatia's foreign policy: accession to the European Union and to NATO. By receiving the invitation for NATO at the recent Bucharest summit we have accomplished a decisive step towards NATO membership. I am also convinced that our negotiations on accession to the European Union will continue successfully after a brief standstill . . .

PRESIDENT BUSH: . . . We appreciate your gracious hospitality. And we celebrate your invitation to become one of America's closest allies. I—you said you're from a small country. I'm impressed by the big hearts—and the big basketball team.

We are so proud of our relationship, Mr. President. We share common values. We believe in human rights and human dignity. We believe there's a Creator that has given every man, woman and child on the face of the Earth the great gift of freedom. We believe markets are capable of unleashing the entrepreneurial spirit of our peoples. We understand that freedom requires sacrifice.

I salute the people of your country for your courage and willingness to help a young democracy in Afghanistan not only thrive but succeed. I appreciate the friends who have stared evil in the face and understand there's a better tomorrow.

And so, Mr. President, I bring the greetings of my country to your beautiful land . . .

PRESIDENT BUSH AND PRIME MINISTER SANADER ADDRESSING THE CROATIAN PEOPLE ON ST. MARKS SQUARE, ZAGREB, APRIL 5, 2008

PRIME MINISTER SANADER: . . . Today, together with you and the free world, we share the same values of freedom, the right of the people and individuals to live in peace and security, values of democracy and human rights, values of dialogue and mutual respect. Our veterans fought for these values in the homeland war. In the defense of these values, more than 15,000 Croatian citizens died. With their memory in our hearts and our souls, today we express our gratitude to them.

And on these values, and on the recognition of mutual interest is where we base constant improvement of our relations and Croatian-American friendship, to the benefit of our peoples and our business communities. But also there are broader messages. On these values, the Euro-Atlantic community of freedom, peace, democracy and well-being continues to be built.

. . . Croatia has made another large step in the realization of the most important goals of our state policy. Dear friends, with the invitation of our country to join NATO, and with the new energy in our negotiations to accede EU, this visit by American President means that the aspirations of many Croatian generations have been fulfilled.

Our citizens in this important success not only see the realization of goals of those brave patriots, our veterans who defended Croatia in the recent difficult times, but also the century-old-long aspirations of Croats—people to go back to it to embrace a free democratic world. Our citizens also know that NATO today has supported the values they value and respect. Our negotiations with EU successfully leading to full membership in the next very brief period are also part of the same goal. In brief, Croatia is going where it belongs; Croatia is going back home.

Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen, the world is still not a totally secure place. Still in many ways, and for many ways, the fundamental civilization values which we share are threatened. They were attacked also on September 11th. They were attacked also in

this region. Today they are still threatened in too many places across the world. The Euro-Atlantic community also has responsibility in the areas like Afghanistan and Darfur, but also in the resolution of the problems of diseases, poverty, disaster prevention, and other challenges for international security.

A common understanding of the new nature of global threats for world peace and security, and joint efforts to fight them are the only guarantee of the success, and the only way to continue to build the new international order, the order of cooperation instead of conflict, order of dialogue instead of separation.

. . . The time in which alliances were against each other are gone. Today the times are where we look for allies along the same most—the highest goals of human civilization, freedom and democracy. Not even peace in our neighborhood in southeast Europe is not full. Here still we need to invest in allies, freedom, democracy and equality. Euro-Atlantic integration of this is the most important, historically irreplaceable goal and incentive.

Croatia knew how to realize its future even when it seemed to be uncertain. Today we are at the threshold of Atlantic Alliance and European Union. The power of this success encourages us to continue to support our neighbors in their efforts. This is why we are very pleased to have with us the leaders of Albania, Macedonia, Presidents Bamir Topi and Branko Crvenkovski, Prime Ministers Sali Berisha and Nikola Gruevski.

. . . Mr. President, when I recall your historic speech in Warsaw in 2001, which opened a window of freedom for many countries and peoples, when I see the achievements, when I see how much you still invest in the achievement of lasting peace and stability in southeast Europe, I'm filled with confidence. And I will personally continue to offer my contribution to high common goals of Croatia, U.S.A., Europe and all our most important partners.

Croatia will—more and more in European Union and NATO, continue its responsible mission in southeast Europe. In matching goals of European Union and NATO, we see additional incentive and space for such action.

Once again, Mr. President, I thank you for your visit, for your support and for your friendship.

Ladies and gentlemen, dear friends, the President of the United States, George Bush.

PRESIDENT BUSH: . . . The United States appreciates the leadership you have shown in the cause of freedom. We're pleased Albania and Croatia have been invited to join NATO. And we look forward to Macedonia taking its place very soon in this great alliance for freedom.

Laura, who has joined me today, and I are proud to stand on the soil of an independent Croatia. Our countries are separated by thousands of miles, but we're united by a deep belief in God and the blessings of liberty He gave us. And today, on the edge of the great Adriatic, we stand together as one free people.

Croatia is a very different place than it was just a decade ago. The Croatian people have overcome war and hardship to build peaceful relations with your neighbors, and to build a maturing democracy in one of the most beautiful countries on the face of the Earth. Americans admire your courage and admire your persistence. And we look forward to welcoming you as a partner in NATO.

The invitation to join NATO that Croatia and Albania received this week is a vote of confidence that you will continue to make necessary reforms and become strong con-

tributors to our great Alliance. Henceforth, should any danger threaten your people, America and the NATO Alliance will stand with you, and no one will be able to take your freedom away.

I regret that NATO did not extend an invitation to Macedonia at this week's summit. Macedonia has made difficult reforms at home, and is making major contributions to NATO missions abroad. Unfortunately, Macedonia's invitation was delayed because of a dispute over its name. In Bucharest, NATO allies declared that as soon as this issue is resolved, Macedonia will be extended an invitation to join the Alliance. America's position is clear: Macedonia should take its place in NATO as soon as possible.

. . . The people of this region know what the gift of liberty means. You know the death and destruction that can be caused by the followers of radical ideologies. You know that, in a long run, the only way to defeat a hateful ideology is to promote the hopeful alternative of human freedom. And that is what our nations are doing today in the Middle East. The lack of freedom and opportunity in that region has given aid and comfort to the lies and ambitions of violent extremists. Resentments that began on the streets of the Middle East have resulted in the killing innocent people across the world. A great danger clouds the future of all free men and women, and this danger sits at the doorstep of Europe.

Together the people of this region are helping to confront this danger. Today soldiers from Croatia, Albania, and Macedonia are serving bravely in Afghanistan—helping the Afghan people defeat the terrorists and secure their future of liberty. Forces from Albania and Macedonia are serving in Iraq—where they're helping the Iraqi people build a society that rejects terror and lives in freedom. It's only a matter of time before freedom takes root across that troubled region. And when it does, millions will remember the people of your nation stood with them in their hour of need.

At this great moment in history, you have a vital role. There are many people who don't appear to understand why it takes so long to build a democracy. You can tell them how hard it is to put in place a new and complex system of government for the first time. There are those who actually wonder if people were better off under their old tyranny. You can tell them that freedom is the only real path to prosperity and security and peace. And there are those who ask whether the pain and sacrifices for freedom are worth the costs. And they should come to Croatia. And you can show them that freedom is worth fighting for.

The great church in this square has stood since the Middle Ages. Over the centuries, it has seen long, dark winters of occupation and tyranny and war. But the spring is here at last. This is an era in history that generations of Croats have prayed for. It is an era that Pope John Paul the Second envisioned when he came to this land, and prayed with the Croatian people, and asked for "a culture of peace." Today in this square, before this great church, we can now proudly say: Those prayers have been answered.

May you always remember the joy of this moment in your history. And may the hopeful story of a peaceful Croatia find its way to those in the world who live as slaves, and still await a joyful spring.

May God bless Croatia. And thank you for coming.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING WILL MCCOY FOR WINNING THE BOYS' DIVISION I STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 14, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Will McCoy showed hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball; and Whereas, Will McCoy was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Will McCoy always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the court; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Will McCoy on winning the Boys' Division I State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship he has demonstrated during the 2007–2008 basketball season.

HONORING THE JAMESVILLE-DEWITT BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 14, 2008

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to the Jamesville-Dewitt Basketball Team, 2008 Class A Champions. The Jamesville-Dewitt Red Rams defeated the East Hampton Bonackers by a score of 78–54, earning Jamesville-Dewitt their third New York State Boys Basketball Championship title.

I had the pleasure of watching J-D play in the Sectional Finals in Syracuse. They are remarkably talented, deep, and well coached. They clearly understand the concept of team basketball.

On behalf of the people of New York's 25th Congressional District, I congratulate these young men on their outstanding athletic achievement, and praise Head Coach Bob McKenney and Assistant Coach Brock Elmore on their team's success. I look forward to another exciting year when the Red Rams take court to defend their title in 2009.

Mickey Davis, Tacari Davis, Zach Firestone, Mitchell Howe, Alshwan Hymes, Lamar Kearse, Jon Lee, Antoine Mitchell, Nick Pascale, Dan Piciuccio, Nathan Scholl-Hess, John Sheedy, Greg Stern, Brandon Triche, Mychal Weekes, Marcus Williams

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 14, 2008

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, unfortunately this afternoon, April 10, 2008, due to severe weather in the Midwest I had to leave before being able to cast my vote on Amendment No. 8 to H.R. 2537, the Beach Protection Act, offered by my colleague JEFF FLAKE.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 182 on the Flake Amendment No. 8 barring earmarks from the Beach Act, I would have voted "aye."

While I generally believe that Congress should have the power to control where Federal spending should be spent, the Beach Protection Act was intended to be formula-based and was never intended to be funded through the direction of Congress and I believe that this amendment is consistent in that goal.

JAMIE WASSAM

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 14, 2008

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jamie Wassam who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Jamie Wassam is a senior at Arvada High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jamie Wassam is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Jamie Wassam for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her high school career to her college career and future accomplishments.

HONORING AARON PAUL PRICE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 14, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Aaron Paul Price of Blue Springs, Missouri. Aaron is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1205, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Aaron has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Aaron has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Aaron Paul Price for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

WELCOMING HIS HOLINESS POPE BENEDICT XVI TO THE UNITED STATES

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 14, 2008

Mr. AKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to welcome His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI on his first apostolic visit to the United States.

Since April 2005, Pope Benedict XVI has led the Roman Catholic Church admirably, he has served his church faithfully, and focused strongly on the dignity and importance of human life, particularly for those who are often ignored: the elderly, the disabled, and the unborn.

In his first papal visit to the United States of America, Pope Benedict will only be able to visit two cities, but citizens across the Nation, of all faiths and backgrounds, warmly welcome him to our country.

Pope Benedict stands for both truth in the face of relativism and peace and love in the face of violence and hate—it is these strengths that make Pope Benedict's voice and message one that all Americans, and all people around the world, should be eager to hear.

The theme of Pope Benedict's apostolic visit is "Christ our Hope." In his latest Encyclical, *Spe Salvi*, Pope Benedict notes, ". . . it is true that anyone who does not know God, even though he may entertain all kinds of hopes, is ultimately without hope, without the great hope that sustains the whole of life (cf. Eph 2:12). Man's great, true hope which holds firm in spite of all disappointments can only be God—God who has loved us and who continues to love us "to the end," until all "is accomplished" (cf. Jn 13:1 and 19:30). Whoever is moved by love begins to perceive what "life" really is. . . . Life in its true sense is not something we have exclusively in or from ourselves: it is a relationship. And life in its totality is a relationship with him who is the source of life. If we are in relation with him who does not die, who is Life itself and Love itself, then we are in life. Then we "live."'

May all of us, as Americans, be open to Pope Benedict's message of hope this week.

I welcome Pope Benedict XVI in this visit and hope he will return to our Nation again in the near future.

IN HONOR OF TOM MARCHANT OF HANOVER, MINNESOTA

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 14, 2008

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Tom Marchant of Hanover, Minnesota, who is this year's winner of the Minnesota American Legion Oratorical Contest. Tom was sponsored by Wayzata Post 118.

Tom spoke on the topic of freedom and responsibility: "Our final responsibility is by far the most honorable and sacrificial. It is the duty to fight for the United States. Many great men and women have answered the call of freedom . . . In deserts and foreign lands,

through sleepless nights and lonely days, they hold high our blessed flag of freedom. We love freedom, and we don't want to lose it. But we must remember, always remember, that freedom didn't and doesn't come free."

Tom was also recently recognized by the Bill of Rights Institute for his essay on Being an American. Tom was 1 of only 30 students chosen from more than 13,000 in 19 states and the District of Columbia for this honor.

The Bill of Rights Institute invited teenage students from across the Nation to write about the ideals that unite us as Americans. Tom wrote eloquently about the vision our Founders had for this Nation and where Tom and his own generation can lead America:

"Perseverance is a sign of great men, and the sign of free men. It is only by God's grace, and our forefathers' perseverance that we can enjoy the privileges of freedom as we do today. As Daniel Webster once said, "God grants liberty only to those who love it and are always ready to defend it." The baton has been passed on to us. So the question is, will we persevere?"

Tom, who has been homeschooled and encouraged in all his pursuits by his parents Todd and Kim, is also active with the National Christian Forensic and Communications Association. He has been both a regional and State champion. Last summer, he participated in Boys State. Tom is also active in his church, where he is a worship leader, and he enjoys singing and playing piano and the guitar.

A TRIBUTE TO JAMES (JIM) R.
HALUSKY

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 14, 2008

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor James (Jim) R. Halusky, Director of International Operations in the Aerospace Systems Division at Northrop Grumman Corporation, on the occasion of his retirement after over 40 years of service.

Jim graduated from Grove City College with a bachelor's degree and has since completed a variety of executive level development programs. He began his career with Westinghouse Electric Corporation (now Northrop Grumman Corporation) in July 1967 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania as an electrical design engineer. He has served Northrop Grumman Corporation in a number of different capacities. As Director of Engineering Design and Manager of International Armament Cooperative Programs, Jim made important contributions to many of the electronic systems contained in the industry's most advanced systems, such as the F-16, F-22, JSF, and the C-130.

Northrop Grumman's Electronic Systems Sector located in Linthicum, Maryland, is a leading developer, manufacturer, integrator and supporter of a variety of advances electronic and maritime systems for U.S. and international customers for national security and non-defense applications.

As Director of International Operations for the Aerospace Systems Division of the Electronic Systems Sector, Jim had primary responsibility to support all facets of the Aerospace Division's ongoing international pro-

grams as well as future developing international opportunities. His responsibilities centered on managing the Division's Export Compliance and Offset/Countertrade requirements. He worked closely with various U.S. Government agencies such as DTSA, DSCA, SAF/IA and N-IPO and with various industry partners such as Boeing and Lockheed Martin. Jim had considerable experience working with numerous international industry affiliates such as MELCO, Terma and Thales.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor James (Jim) R. Halusky. His legacy as a creative leader in electronic systems pioneering and his 40 years of distinguished service to the industry will be forever remembered. It is with great pride that I congratulate Jim Halusky on his exemplary career in electronic and technological defense.

FELICIA GILMORE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 14, 2008

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Felicia Gilmore who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Felicia Gilmore is a student at North Arvada Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Felicia Gilmore is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Felicia Gilmore for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character to all her future accomplishments.

HONORING LEVI WILSON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 14, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Levi Samuel Wilson of Grain Valley, Missouri. Levi is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1216, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Levi has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Levi has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Levi Samuel Wilson for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

THE REAL CHINA

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 14, 2008

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise to express my ongoing concern about China. I strongly believe that America must be a country that stands up for basic decency and human rights. America must speak out on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves—men and women who are being persecuted for their religious or political beliefs. Our foreign policy must be a policy that helps promote human rights and freedom, and not a policy that sides with dictators who oppress their own citizens.

Every person on earth has certain inalienable rights. In a 1987 Constitution Day speech, Ronald Reagan noted that the U.S. Constitution has been described "as a kind of covenant. It is a covenant we've made not only with ourselves but with all of mankind." Reagan continued that "It's a human covenant; yes, and beyond that, a covenant with the Supreme Being to whom our Founding Fathers did constantly appeal for assistance." America has a profound responsibility to keep this covenant and to stand up for freedom in the world's darkest corners.

China is a perfect example of a place where these rights are not being protected. The China of today is worse than the China of yesterday, or of last year, or of the last decade. China is not progressing. It is regressing. It is more violent, more repressive, and more resistant to democratic values than ever before.

China is actively engaged in espionage against the United States. I recently had the opportunity to read the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission's 2007 Classified Report to the Congress, and found the report's conclusions to be very alarming. The unclassified version of this report is available at www.usce.eov. I strongly urge you to read it, as it gives a clear picture of the threat that China poses to our national security.

The report addresses Chinese activities in the areas of espionage, cyber warfare, and arms proliferation. The FBI has described Chinese espionage as a "substantial threat" and the Bureau of Customs and Border Patrol has reported publicly that Chinese espionage is now the leading threat to U.S. technology. It has also been widely reported that many cyber attacks against the U.S. government are suspected of originating in China. Furthermore, China continues to transfer weapons and technology to nations of concern and non-state actors, putting men and women in American uniform abroad in grave danger.

You may have also seen the April 3 Washington Post article titled, "Chinese Spy 'Slept' in U.S. for Two Decades," which details the spying activities of Chi Mak. Mak lived quietly with his family in a Los Angeles suburb for two decades while he built his career around secretly copying sensitive plans for Navy weapons, submarines and ships and couring them to the Chinese government. U.S. intelligence and Justice Department officials believe the Mak case "represents only a small facet of a [Chinese] intelligence-gathering operation that has long been in place and is growing in size and sophistication." I have enclosed a copy of this article for your review.

China also poses a deadly threat to its own citizens. Manfred Nowak, the UN Special Rapporteur for torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, has found that Chinese officials specifically target house church groups. Falun Gong adherents, Tibetans, and Uyghur prisoners and abuse them.

The Cardinal Kung Foundation reports that in 2007, 35 Roman Catholic bishops were in jail, under house arrest, or harassed and put under surveillance. The Chinese government has refused to acknowledge the Vatican as the supreme authority for Chinese Catholics in many matters of faith. More information on the Chinese government's persecution of the Catholic Church can be found at www.cardinalkungfoundation.org.

In 2007, the Chinese government arrested 693 Christians that we know of. The China Aid Association reports that in 2007 the known cases in which Christian house churches were persecuted by the government covered 18 provinces and one municipality directly under the jurisdiction of the Central Government and there were 60 cases of persecution, up 30.4% from that of 2006. You can read more about China's persecution of Christians at <http://chinaaid.org>.

Muslims and Buddhists face persecution by the Chinese government as well. Renowned human rights advocate and Uyghur Muslim Rebiya Kadeer has watched from exile as the Chinese government arrests and beats her family members in her homeland. In late 2006, western mountain climbers captured on videotape a horrifying scene: Chinese police shooting from their North Face tents at a group of Tibetan refugees crossing Nangpa Pass. A 17-year old Buddhist nun was killed and several others were wounded. Additional information on the persecution of Muslims, Buddhists, Falun Gong practitioners and other minorities can be found in the State Department's annual human rights report at <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2007/100518.htm>.

According to the State Department's 2007 human rights report, China has 20 ankaung institutions (high-security psychiatric hospitals for the criminally insane) directly administered by the Ministry of Public Security. People that are committed to these institutions have no mechanism for objecting to public security officials' determinations of mental illness.

The Chinese government often houses dissidents in these institutions, beating them, giving them medicine against their will, forcibly subjecting them to electric shock treatment and denying them food and the use of toilet facilities. According to the State Department's human rights report, political activists, underground religious believers, members of the banned China Democratic Party (CDP), and Falun Gong practitioners are among the people incarcerated in these facilities.

China maintains an extensive system of gulags—slave labor camps, also known as the “laogai”—as large as that which existed in the former Soviet Union. These camps are used for brainwashing and “reeducation through labor,” and are often the site of barbaric procedures of organ harvesting, torture, and execution. During a trip to China in March 1991, I visited Beijing Prison No. 1 and witnessed forced labor first-hand. In late 2005, I introduced H. Con. Res. 294, a resolution condemning the Laogai prison camps, which passed in the House by a vote of 413–1.

China has a long history of attempts to liquidate Tibet's culture and presence in China, including in the recent crackdown in which scores of Tibetans were killed and hundreds more arrested for participating in the protests. My outrage at what China is doing in Tibet led me to visit Tibet in 1997. I have continued since then to speak out on behalf of the persecuted and suffering in Tibet and about the human rights abuses that I have witnessed first-hand there.

I was disappointed in the State Department's decision in March to remove China from its list of the world's 10 worst human rights violators, especially given State's own admission of China's poor human rights record in its annual human rights report. I also remain deeply troubled by the President's decision to attend the 2008 Olympics in Beijing. It is time to send China a message that the United States is serious when we tell the Chinese government that it needs to end the human rights and religious freedom abuses in its own country.

China poses a threat to freedom in other countries as well. China, which is a major business partner of Sudan, should be using its influence with the Sudanese government to bring an end to the genocide in the Darfur region. Instead, Chinese President Hu Jintao's visit to Khartoum early in 2007 did not produce progress on this point, but rather a commitment by the Chinese to build Sudanese President Bashir a new palace. China's role in extracting oil from Sudan, selling weapons to the Sudanese government and maintaining close business relations with this genocidal regime are clearly more important to the Chinese government than saving human lives.

China also cuts corners with its exports, making products that pose significant danger to consumers around the world. Recent Chinese exports to our country—and to many others—have included tainted pet food that has killed our pets, dried apples in cancer-causing chemicals, scallops and sardines coated with putrefying bacteria, children's toys containing lead-based paint, and prunes tinted with chemical dyes, prompting U.S. Food and Drug Administration inspectors to travel across the world to investigate two suspect Chinese factories, only to find the factories had been cleaned out and all equipment dismantled.

Chinese products also poison children in Panama, the Dominican Republic, and Australia, with toothpaste containing an industrial solvent and prime ingredient in some anti-freeze. This toothpaste was marketed under the brand name “Mr. Cool.”

Several years ago, during the debate over granting China permanent normal trade relations status, proponents argued that economic liberalization would lead to political liberalization in China, and that the U.S. and other industrialized nations could influence China through economic activity to better respect the rights of its citizens to fundamental human rights.

I strongly opposed Permanent Normal Trade Relations (PNTR) status for China, and today we have seen why the protection of basic liberties should not come second to economic growth. China is more violent, repressive, and resistant to democratic values than it was before we opened our ports to freely accept Chinese products.

And despite all of these abhorrent acts, China was still awarded the honor of hosting

the 2008 Olympics. The Olympic Games: an event designed to lift up “the educational value of good example and respect for universal fundamental ethical principles,” according to its own charter. Does China's behavior sound like a “good example” to the rest of the world? Or that it is reflecting “fundamental ethical principles” that all nations should aspire to?

It is because of these actions I have described that I do not support the president or other senior U.S. officials attending the 2008 Beijing Olympics. The political prisoners in China and Chinese dissidents around the world will be deeply demoralized by what the Chinese government will surely portray as symbolic support for its regime if senior American officials attend the games. I have proposed language for inclusion in the 2008 emergency supplemental appropriations bill that would prohibit U.S. federal employees from attending the Olympics on the taxpayer's dime.

Some assert that human rights will come to China once stability has been attained. They say that protection of human rights is secondary to attaining economic power and wealth. We must reject that notion. China poses a threat not only to its own citizens, but to the entire world. The United States government must be vigilant about protecting the values of human rights, religious freedom and democracy that we hold dear.

HONORING THOMAS WYSCAVER

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 14, 2008

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Thomas L. Wycaver for his service and leadership in the Boy Scouts of America.

Thomas has dedicated his time and his heart to the Denver Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America. The Council serves over 55,000 youth with the assistance and mentorship of over 11,000 adult volunteers. Thomas is a standout among equals in his commitment to instill the values of service and patriotism in the young men of our nation.

Due to his outstanding and distinguished service to the Denver Area Council, Thomas is being awarded the Silver Beaver Award, a recognition given to Scouting's volunteers for their exemplary service and character. It is the organization's highest honor. Thomas has been able to support the Denver Council in all 10 counties that it serves and has helped countless young men from Cub Scouting to Venturing programs.

It is an honor for me to recognize Thomas and highlight his dedication to the youth of our nation. The Centennial State is glad to call him our own.

BRITTANY FIALA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 14, 2008

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Brittany Fiala

who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Brittany Fiala is a senior at Arvada High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Brittany Fiala is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Brittany Fiala for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her high school career to her college career and future accomplishments.

HONORING ETHAN CLARK

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 14, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Ethan Scott Clark of Blue Springs, Missouri. Ethan is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1692, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Ethan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Ethan has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Ethan Scott Clark for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE LINCOLN WILDCATS BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 14, 2008

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Lincoln Wildcats basketball team, winners of the Illinois Elementary School Association's Boys Class 4A State Championship.

This outstanding group of young men from Edwardsville, Illinois, took the State championship in February with a thrilling one point win over Normal Kingsley in the State finals. For the season, they posted a record of 24 wins against only 5 losses. Today I want to recognize coach Dustin Battas and assistant coach Matt Rogers, and the members of the Edwardsville Lincoln Wildcats State championship team: Diarra Cropper, Quincy Morgan, Brendan Colligan, Blake Brown, Casey Thebeau, Maleek Malone, Derek Page, Brian Gifford, Austin Abegg, Tony Miner, Jacob Nolan, Tyler Ogden, Will Suttles, Alex Jackson and Jared Krebs-Carr.

These student-athletes have made our community proud, and have represented Edwardsville with great honor. I congratulate them on bringing home the State title, and wish them the best of luck in all their future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 14, 2008

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I missed rollcall vote Nos. 153–160 on April 2 and April 3, 2008. If present, I would have voted:

Rollcall vote No. 153, Approval of the Journal, “nay.”

Rollcall vote No. 154, Previous Question, “nay.”

Rollcall vote No. 155, Rule for H.R. 5501, Tom Lantos and Henry J. Hyde United States Global Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Reauthorization Act of 2008, “nay.”

Rollcall vote No. 156, Carson Amendment that directs the Coordinator of US Government Activities to Combat HIV/AIDS Globally and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to expand their plan for strengthening health systems of host countries by allowing for postsecondary educational institutions, particularly in Africa, to collaborate with postsecondary educational institutions and specifically historically black colleges and universities in the United States, “aye.”

Rollcall vote No. 157, Motion to Recommit H.R. 5501, the Tom Lantos and Henry J. Hyde United States Global Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Reauthorization Act of 2008, “aye.”

Rollcall vote No. 158, Final Passage of H.R. 5501, Tom Lantos and Henry J. Hyde United States Global Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Reauthorization Act of 2008, “nay.”

Rollcall vote No. 159, Motion to Recommit H.R. 4847, the U.S. Fire Administration Reauthorization Act, “aye.”

Rollcall vote No. 160, Final Passage of H.R. 4847, the U.S. Fire Administration Reauthorization Act, “aye.”

KAYOUA CHA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 14, 2008

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Kayoua Cha who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Kayoua Cha is a senior at Arvada High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Kayoua Cha is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education

and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Kayoua Cha for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her high school career to her college career and future accomplishments.

HONORING DAVID KING

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 14, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize David James King of Kansas City, Missouri. David is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1900, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

David has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years David has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending David James King for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN SUPPORT OF THE RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT TAX CREDIT

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 14, 2008

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, it is a shame that the research tax credit expired at the end of 2007. Our failure to re-authorize it is counter to the ideals of the America COMPETES Act, passed into law last summer.

At least nine research tax credit bills have been introduced in this Congress.

Last March, I introduced H.R. 1712, a companion bill to that of Senator BAUCUS, the Chair of the Senate Finance Committee. It changes the formula so that the credit is based on a company's research spending instead of gross receipts. It proposes a 20 percent credit for U.S. research expenses exceeding 50 percent of a company's average expenses over the preceding 3 years.

It establishes a more streamlined 80 percent reimbursement rate for all contract research expenses and allows a credit for equity investments in small business innovation companies. Most importantly, the Baucus/Johnson proposal makes the R&D tax credit permanent.

Texas ranks 4th in the Nation for total R&D funding and 3rd for gross State product. Innovation and research are critical for my State.

Again, I strongly support a generous and permanent research tax credit.

IN RECOGNITION OF BROOKE
GARCIA: A BRAVE IDAHOAN

HON. BILL SALI

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 14, 2008

Mr. SALI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of my constituents, Brooke Garcia of Caldwell, ID. On Thursday night, April 10, Brooke displayed courage, bravery and maturity well beyond her young 17 years of age.

While driving down Interstate 84 in Caldwell, Brooke witnessed a car accident. Her quick thinking led her to stop her car and run to the burning wreckage. Brooke then had to break the back window of the smoke-filled car and reach through the broken window to pull out a 3-year-old toddler from his seat. She said she didn't even think about not stopping.

Police on the scene said if Brooke hadn't gotten to the child as quickly as she did, things would have turned out differently. She saved the toddler's life.

I admire Brooke's composure after witnessing such a terrible accident. I am honored to recognize the heroic efforts of this young lady. I applaud and am grateful for her example to our fellow Idahoans and all Americans.

Brooke's valiant action is yet another reminder of why I am proud to be an Idahoan and to represent the First Congressional District of the Gem State.

Brooke attends Caldwell High School and is the daughter of Amy and Gerald Garcia. They are rightly proud of their wonderful daughter.

I trust that all my colleagues will join me in recognizing Brooke for her actions and character. She represents the best of Idaho's next generation.

JOHN KENNEDY

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 14, 2008

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud John Kennedy who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. John Kennedy is a senior at Arvada High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by John Kennedy is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to John Kennedy for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication he has shown in his high school career to his college career and future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. COLLIN C. PETERSON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 14, 2008

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, April 9, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to be present for rollcall vote No. 171. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING PATRICK KELLY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 14, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Patrick Reese Kelly of Blue Springs, Missouri. Ethan is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1692, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Patrick has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Patrick has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Patrick Reese Kelly for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 14, 2008

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was out of town attending a memorial service last week. I missed rollcall vote Nos. 161 thru 177. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on votes 161 thru 167, 171, and 174 thru 177. I would have voted "nay" on votes 168, 169, 170, 172, and 173.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE MINNESOTA ASSOCIATED PRESS BROADCASTERS' AWARDS RECIPIENTS

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 14, 2008

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the 2007 Minnesota Associated Press Broadcasters awardees as leaders in radio and television broadcasting. In particular, I would like to recognize those winners serving Minnesota's Sixth Congressional District, including KNSI-AM, KVSC-FM, WJON-AM, KXSS-AM, KTLK-FM, MPR, KARE-TV, and KSTP-TV.

These winners are the elite in their field, and they should all be proud of their hard work and achievements. Specifically, I would like to recognize the contributions of KTLK-FM and their program director Steve Versnick for their outstanding accomplishments in radio, securing two awards for their work in 2007. Jeff Monosso and Jason Lewis were winners of the Radio Class III, Spot/Hard News category for their spot, "35W Bridge Collapse," and Jeff Monosso won a second award for a Radio Class III Newscast, titled, "2007 Newscast."

In the years ahead, these news outlets will continue to provide Minnesotans with the best coverage of the events affecting our daily lives. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize these radio and television stations as among the best in Minnesota news broadcasting.

GABE BACA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 14, 2008

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Gabe Baca who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Gabe Baca is a senior at Arvada High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Gabe Baca is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Gabe Baca for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication he has shown in his high school career to his college career and future accomplishments.

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL CRITTENTON FOUNDATION

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 14, 2008

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the 125th anniversary of The National Crittenton Foundation and one of the leading members of the Crittenton Family of Agencies, Crittenton Services of Greater Washington, which also celebrates 120 years of service.

Since 1887, Crittenton Services has been proud to serve more than 20,000 adolescent women in the Greater Washington region with a singular focus: to strengthen the ability of teen women to identify and achieve their academic, career and life goals.

The Crittenton Mission was awarded a National Charter through a special act of Congress signed by President William McKinley in 1898. An amendment to the Charter was

signed into law by President Theodore Roosevelt, which extended the national Mission into perpetuity and provided funds to establish a local agency.

Dr. Kate Waller Barrett, the pioneering physician and dedicated leader of the Crittenton movement played a critical role in developing a holistic approach to supporting young mothers and their children. Her compassionate approach formed the cornerstone of Crittenton's PEARLS program which strengthens young women's ability to set and meet their personal and life goals. Today, the agency still awards a Barrett scholarship that allows adolescent mothers to continue their education.

Dr. Barrett's belief that all adolescents need a warm and supportive atmosphere also remains an important component of Crittenton's SNEAKERS Program which teaches important skills to non-pregnant teens ages 13–18.

Building on Dr. Barrett's legacy, Crittenton employs national best practices to develop and implement holistic programs that ensure a consistent and positive presence in the lives of the teen women it serves. Crittenton staff members integrate support, education and skills-building into four- to five-year programs individually tailored to the needs of each participant. These programs produce measurable results focused on three strategic objectives: (1) improve academic performance (2) increase workplace readiness and (3) increase the adoption of healthy behaviors. These three objectives make Crittenton Services a national leader in serving girls and adolescents at risk.

I am honored to acknowledge Crittenton Services of Greater Washington and its long and distinguished record of community service in our region as well as its continuing evolution into an effective 21st century partner.

CHENG YANG

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 14, 2008

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Cheng Yang who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Cheng Yang is a senior at Arvada High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Cheng Yang is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Cheng Yang for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her high school career to her college career and future accomplishments.

RELATING TO THE CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5724, UNITED STATES-COLOMBIA TRADE PROMOTION AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DAN BOREN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. BOREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the passage of H. Res. 1092, a resolution designed to block consideration of the U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement in the U.S. House of Representatives.

This resolution will more than likely prevent the U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement from receiving an up-or-down vote during the 110th Congress. I believe we should have an open and fair debate on every free trade agreement. The normal process established by law in which free trade agreements are considered allows Members of Congress opportunities to raise concerns regarding free trade that they heard from their constituents.

I disagree with the decision by the President to send this agreement to Congress without the necessary consent of both the House and Senate. However, I am concerned the passage of H. Res. 1092, which suspends the 60-day time line for a House floor vote on the U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement, will only serve to deepen the already existing partisan divide in Washington.

Along with my fellow colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives, I closely weigh the potential costs and benefits of each free trade agreement the President negotiates. Furthermore, I believe in order for these agreements to be evaluated thoroughly, they must be considered by the normal process established by law. The resolution adopted today undercuts this process.

Mr. Speaker, it is for these reasons I voted against H. Res. 1092 along with 195 of my colleagues. I hope in the coming months Members of the House and Senate will have the opportunity to debate and assess the potential value of the U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement.

AMBER CROWELL

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 14, 2008

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Amber Crowell who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Amber Crowell is a senior at Arvada High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Amber Crowell is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Amber Crowell for winning the Arvada

Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her high school career to her college career and future accomplishments.

HONORING THE USA TAP DANCE TEAM ON THEIR SUCCESS AT THE WORLD TAP DANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 14, 2008

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with the greatest pride that I rise today to extend my sincere congratulations and very best wishes to the USA Tap Dance Team, based out of the Greater New Haven area, as they celebrate their tremendous success at the 2007 World Tap Dance Championships recently held in Reisa, Germany. In all, 51 dancers ranging in age from 10 to 20 years old made the trip and returned with a total of 11 medals! Our communities certainly have cause for celebration with the wonderful accomplishments of these young people.

Participating in three divisions, the USA Tap Dance Team has worked very hard over the last several months to be able to compete in this year's competitions. Coming together from across Connecticut and even New York, the dancers practiced for countless hours for solo, duo, small group, and formation events. The commitment these young people have demonstrated is truly inspiring. They have worked so hard to master the required high-level skills and the necessary symmetry of their movements.

I had the distinct honor of joining them for a very special evening as they prepared to leave for Germany and, as a former tap dancer myself, I was truly impressed with the level of dedication, passion, and talent of the team. It was this combination of drive and spirit that lead to the team to come home with three gold medals, seven silver medals, one bronze medal, and several other finishing places—placing and medaling in each of three divisions—a remarkable showing!

I am also pleased to recognize the incomparable Gloria Jean Cuming for her outstanding leadership and instruction as well as the six choreographers who worked with the dancers and traveled to Germany with them. Their work with individuals and groups helped to secure this outstanding triumph. In addition, I would also extend a note of thanks and appreciation to the parents and volunteers whose support has enabled the dancers to practice and travel for their competitions. Without their efforts, the success of the USA Tap Dance Team would not be possible.

I am thrilled to stand today join our local communities in extending my sincere congratulations to the USA Tap Dance Team on their great success at the 2007 World Tap Dance Championships. You have all made us proud!

HONORING THE WORK OF YOUTH
SERVICE, INC. OF PHILADELPHIA

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 14, 2008

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me today in commemorating the 125th anniversary of the National Florence Crittenton Foundation. I am equally pleased to recognize the organization's deep roots in Philadelphia through Youth Service, Inc. and the tremendous work that has been accomplished on behalf of young women and girls in crisis.

One hundred and sixteen years ago, Charles Crittenton founded the 7th Mission Home in center city Philadelphia. The Mission later moved to the Germantown section of North Philadelphia. During that time, it sheltered young, unwed mothers and provided counseling, parenting workshops, and adoption services. Over the years, as the shifting population of Philadelphia diversified, so did the services at the Crittenton site. What remained constant, however, was the commitment to meeting the needs of youth in crisis.

The core principles of the Crittenton Mission are exemplified in Youth Service, Inc.'s mother & baby group home. Located in West Philadelphia, the home serves expectant and teenage mothers that are unable to remain in their own homes due to conditions of abuse, neglect or abandonment. It offers a structured, nurturing environment, where young women receive comprehensive support and the tools necessary to become self sufficient adults and responsible parents.

The original Crittenton site has remained a fixture in the Germantown community for more than eighty years. Currently, it operates as the Crittenton Family Support Center of Youth Service, Inc. and provides vital support services for women, children and families.

In an area where many residents experience limited opportunities for academic and occupational advancement, the services provided at the Crittenton Family Support Center are of critical importance. For infants and young children, Youth Service, Inc. operates the only Crisis Nursery Programs in Philadelphia, with sites in Germantown and Mantua, respectively.

On behalf of my constituents, I am proud to represent Youth Service, Inc. and to share in their history and dedication to the people of our community and to future generations of Philadelphians.

HONORING LOU COSTANTINO, SR.

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 14, 2008

Mr. BACHUS. Madam Speaker, I rise to ask the House to reflect on the memory and devotion of a valued employee who loved this institution, Lou Costantino, Sr.

Mr. Costantino's passing over the weekend was a loss to the House of Representatives. He had a deep reverence for this institution and always conducted himself with honor and decency. Whether it was a Member of Con-

gress or a member of the public passing by the door to the floor, Lou treated everyone with equal respect and civility. He was an ambassador for the House of Representatives and the Capitol Hill neighborhood where he spent the majority of his life.

Lou Costantino, Sr. was born in a house on New Jersey Avenue just a couple of blocks from the Capitol. His parents ran a grocery store at that time, the same grocery that Lou would begin running shortly after graduation from high school, along with a carry out, barbershop, and cleaners that his parents opened. He operated these businesses until coming to work for the House of Representatives in 1980.

During those early years, Mr. Costantino met his wife Doris while going to Eastern High School on Capitol Hill. They were married in 1965 at St. Peter's Church and had two children, Eydie and Lou. "There's been a Costantino at St. Peter's for 100 years," he would often remark.

Lou's devotion to family was indicative of the commitment he had for the House of Representatives. He first began his career here in 1980 with the Office of the Doorkeeper. He always loved his job and the people around him, and held the history and the daily workings of the House in the highest esteem. In accordance with his post, and owing to the high regard in which he was held, Mr. Costantino had the honor of escorting the First Lady to her seat for the State of the Union Address, a task he accomplished annually for every First Lady since Nancy Reagan.

Born just a few blocks away, and having worked in the Capitol for more than 25 years, Lou Costantino, Sr. served this institution and his country with honor and distinction. We extend our sympathies to his family during this time of loss. But we also offer our deep and sincere gratitude for the devoted service given by an individual whose qualities represent the best that this institution has to offer.

HONORING CHIEF WILLIAM S.
JOHNSON ON THE OCCASION OF
HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 14, 2008

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, today marks the end of an era as Fire Chief William S. Johnson celebrates his retirement after 41 years of dedicated service to the Center Fire District of West Haven, Connecticut. It is with the greatest pleasure that I rise today to join the many family, friends, colleagues and community members who have gathered in extending my heartfelt congratulations on this very special occasion.

For more than four decades Chief Johnson has diligently served the West Haven community. For him, it has not only been a job but the extension of a family legacy. His father served as Chief just a decade prior to his own assumption of the title and his grandfather was also a volunteer firefighter. Today, his own son, Lieutenant William S. Johnson, IV also serves in the Department. There are few firefighters in West Haven, volunteer or career, who have not in some way been mentored, inspired, or influenced by Chief Johnson.

Though originally trained as a school teacher, the Chief joined the then West Haven Fire Department, later renamed Center District, in July of 1966. He quickly rose through the ranks of the independent district and was appointed to lead the Department 26 years ago. He is well known, not only in West Haven, but across the state of Connecticut and nationally as an innovative and progressive leader. Chief Johnson is one of the founders of Connecticut's Fire Chiefs' Association and worked for years as a fire science instructor at Waterbury State Technical College, the University of New Haven, and the National Fire Academy. The Chief is credited with being among the first in the state to equip the department with cutting-edge protective equipment and technology. He also used his department as a testing ground for many local and national initiatives and made sure that his Department was among the first to implement such programs as the "Stop Drop, & Roll" educational program for schools and the promotion of fire-retardant clothing for children. I had the opportunity to work with Chief Johnson on the issue of fire-retardant sleepwear for children and was always impressed with the passion and dedication with which he approached and advocated for this important issue.

Throughout a career that has spanned five decades, Chief Johnson has demonstrated a unique commitment and dedication to public service. Too often we take for granted the incredible work of our country's firefighters. I have always held a deep admiration for those who serve as firefighters—each day facing new challenges and seemingly overwhelming responsibility. It takes a unique combination of bravery, compassion, and generosity to serve as a firefighter and especially as Chief. As head of the Center District Department, Chief Johnson made the men and women of the Department his highest priority—always ensuring that they had access to the most current technologies and equipment. Perhaps even more telling, until the day of his retirement and at the age of 71, Chief Johnson not only responded to incidents but joined his men in attacking threatening blazes. The City of West Haven, its residents, and families have certainly been fortunate to have him protecting their community. Mere words cannot begin to repay him for the comfort and security he has provided all.

It is with the greatest respect and my deepest appreciation that I rise today to honor Chief William S. Johnson and thank him for his many invaluable contributions to our community and the discipline of firefighting. His knowledge, skill, and passion for his work have left an indelible mark on our community and a legacy that is certain to inspire generations to come. I am pleased to stand today to join his wife, Dorothy; children, Michelle, Kimberly, Stephaine, and William; grandchildren, Stephaine, Patrick, Michael, Emery, and Richie; as well as all of the family, friends, and colleagues gathered tonight in extending my heartfelt congratulations to Chief William S. Johnson as he celebrates his retirement. Chief—you are a reflection of all that we hope our public servants can be and I wish you all the best for many more years of health and happiness.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DON
DAVIS

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 14, 2008

Mr. MICA. Madam Speaker, I rise today with great sadness to honor the life of a good friend, outstanding Florida and community leader State Representative Don Davis. Don passed away after a brave battle with cancer on April 10, 2008. He represented part of St. Johns County and Florida's First Coast since 2000.

Those who knew him as their Representative in Tallahassee and the People throughout the State of Florida who worked with him lost one of its most capable and dedicated public servants. He served his Nation as a decorated Korean War veteran. He served his community as a true gentleman and someone who was respected by everyone who was honored to know him.

Before representing the people of Jacksonville in the State Legislature, Don was elected to the Jacksonville City Council and was elected several terms as president of the council. His leadership and great sense of humor were special hallmarks by which he will always be remembered. Colleagues remember Don as always willing to lend a helping hand in no matter how big or small a task.

Don was devoted to his community as a leader in the American Cancer Society, the Florida Theatre, The First Tee of Jacksonville, Prisoners of Christ, and other organizations.

Born in Okemah, Oklahoma, he attended the Los Angeles City College (1949–1950), University of Redlands (1950), and the University of California-Los Angeles (1959).

The Jacksonville area, the State of Florida, and our Nation has lost a wonderful and distinguished leader.

To his wife, Alice, and two sons, Donald Jr. and Dean; and on behalf of the House of Representatives, we extend our deepest sympathy.

HONORING BRIDGES . . . A COMMUNITY SUPPORT SYSTEM, INC. AS THEY CELEBRATE THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 14, 2008

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I am honored to rise today to extend my sincere congratulations to Bridges . . . A Community Support System, Inc. of Milford, Connecticut as they celebrate their 50th anniversary. This is a remarkable milestone for this outstanding organization dedicated to providing support and mental health services to those in need.

Originally founded in 1957 as the Milford Family Counseling Association, the organization's mission initially focused on addressing the mental health need of children in the Milford community. The organization expanded so did its scope of services—including adult psychiatric services, drug and alcohol prevention services and opening its doors to the neighboring communities of Orange and West

Haven. As the needs of our communities and its residents changed, so did the agency as well as its name. Designated in the 1990' by the State of Connecticut as the Local Mental Health Authority, the organization made its final name change in 1999 to Bridges . . . A Community Support System to better reflect its purpose and mission.

Today, Bridges, working with local agencies and organizations, is able to provide a multitude of programs to those most in need. From individual counseling to bereavement support; teenage drug and alcohol prevention to vocational and social rehabilitation services, Bridges and its dedicated staff have continually identified the changing needs of our community. The partnerships they have established allow them to provide comprehensive services to their clients—making a real difference in the lives of thousands of children and families.

In building upon the vision first established with the Milford Family Counseling Association, Bridges has been able to provide those coping with the challenges of mental illnesses with one of life's most precious gifts—hope. Through its gift of hope, Bridges has left an indelible mark on our community and the thousands of lives they have touched. In its fifty year history, Bridges has established itself as an invaluable resource as well as respected advocates—not only for their clients, but community leaders and policy-makers alike.

Today, Bridges is continuing its legacy of helping people live more fulfilling and productive lives by providing clients with "Pathways to Health, Hope, and Recovery." For its many invaluable contributions to our community and for all of their work on behalf of our children and families, I am proud to stand today and extend my sincere congratulations to the Bridges . . . A Community Support System on their 50th anniversary.

HONORING IRMA P. HALL

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 14, 2008

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Irma Hall, a grand American and educator, for her commitment to the arts and to the community of Dallas.

The daughter of Josephine Hall, Irma Dolores Player Hall was born in Beaumont, Texas. She was raised on the South Side of Chicago, Illinois, where her father was a saxophone player who performed jazz music. She then went on to attend Briar Cliff College in Sioux City, Iowa.

This native Texan taught school in Dallas ISD for 30 years inspiring many of our youth to succeed. Irma Hall retired from teaching in 1984.

An interest in acting eventually led her to co-find the Dallas Minority Regional Theater with Reginald Montgomery in 1973. She made her stage debut there in "Happy Endings." An acclaimed actress, Ms. Hall shined in such plays as "Raisin In the Sun," "Zooman and the Sign," and "Take a Giant Step."

Ms. Hall's career on the silver screen also began in 1973 after a director saw her at a poetry reading. An accomplished poet, Irma

Hall's reading was so poignant that Raymond St. Jacques cast her in the crime film Book of Numbers. This led to frequent television roles. In 1979, Ms. Hall appeared in "The Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders" and its 1980 sequel, Ron Howard's "Skyward." In 1981, she acted opposite Joanne Woodward in "Crisis at Central High."

Throughout the 1990s, Ms. Hall had roles in several well known feature films including "Backdraft," "Straight Talk," "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil," and "Beloved." Her role in the film "A Family Thing" earned her acclaim and a Chicago Film Critics Association Award. In 1997, Ms. Hall was voted Chicagoan of the Year and also won an Image award for her role in the film "Soul Food."

Ms. Hall continued her television career in the early 2000s with roles in the television series "Soul Food," "A Girl Thing," and "All Souls." In 2004, she received the Jury Prize at the Cannes Film Festival for her role as the landlady in the film "The Ladykillers."

In 2007, the UIL Competition was renamed in honor of Ms. Hall as the Irma P. Hall Theater Festival in order to honor her for her work and achievements.

The arts are, above all, about human communication and interaction. I am one who believes that Ms. Irma Hall has achieved the fullest definition of a role model, not only as a woman, an African American, and an artist, but as an ambassador of creativity and goodwill. She has shared the beauty of the arts and the written word with our multicultural community that is Dallas.

Today, Ms. Hall continues her work with the Dallas Minority Repertory Theater, the Artist & Elaine Thornton Foundation for the Arts, the African American Museum, the Afro American Artists Alliance, the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, and her membership at the Inspiration Boy of Christ Church.

Madam Speaker, on April 19, 2008, the Dallas community will gather at a special dinner to honor and celebrate Irma Hall's career. I would like to ask my colleagues to join me in saluting an exceptional woman, Irma Hall, for her outstanding service and many contributions to Dallas, and to all who love the magic and vitality of art.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 14, 2008

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, on April 10th, 2008, I was unable to vote due to a prior commitment in my district. Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on roll-call votes 178, 179, 180, 181, and 182.

HONORING ROBERT J. LEENEY ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 14, 2008

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to pay tribute to the remarkable career of Robert J. Leeney, a member of our local media community whose talent

and gift for words has left an indelible mark on the New Haven Register and its readers. After a career that has spanned seven decades, Bob announced his retirement and published his last column Saturday, April 21, 2007—just a month before his 91st birthday. His quick wit and unique perspectives will be missed by colleagues and readers alike. As so aptly put by colleague and current Register editorial page editor Charles Kochakian, Bob Leeney is indeed irreplaceable.

Bob's distinguished career in journalism began as a freelance writer in 1939 and he was soon brought on staff as a reporter, Sunday feature writer, and book critic at the New Haven Register. His only absence from the Register was due to his 2 years of service with the 3rd Air Commando Group, 5th Air Force during World War II. Bob became an editorial writer and served as the editor for the editorial page from 1947 until 1961, becoming executive editor in 1962 and finally editor from 1972–1981. During his tenure as editor, Bob was responsible for the technological modernization of the paper, introducing letters to the editor as well as the creation of the Sunday Arts & Leisure Section—literally changing the face of the New Haven Register. It is fair to say that the New Haven Register will not be the same without him.

After more than 40 years with the paper, Bob did step down as editor; however, some of his most invaluable contributions were still yet to come. His column, "Editor's Note," described as a fusion of literate prose and revealing insights, became a Saturday fixture—a must read for all Register subscribers. In fact, Bob did not miss 1 week writing his column in its 33 year run. "Editor's Note" was more than a weekly column—it chronicled New Haven's history and affairs with the unique perspective of its Irish-American author, creating a unique connection between the readers of the Register and our community's rich history.

Bob's contributions to journalism expand far beyond his work with the Register. He was a charter member of the Connecticut Society of Professional Journalists chapter, where he is now honored as a member of the Connecticut Journalism Hall of Fame. He served as the Commissioner of the Freedom of Information Commission for 5 years and has been recognized with a variety of accolades and awards throughout his career. The Yankee Quill Award for distinguished service to journalism, the Seal of the City Award from the New Haven Colony Historical Society in recognition of his contributions to New Haven's civic life, and the plaque that hangs in the heart of New Haven's Audubon arts district are but a few examples but serve as a reflection of all that this New Haven native has brought to our community.

As a respected journalist, community member, mentor, and friend, Robert J. Leeney has left an indelible mark on our community and a legacy that will continue to inspire generations of journalists to come. I am proud to stand today to recognize his outstanding contributions and extend my deepest thanks and appreciation for all of his good work.

TRIBUTE TO MASTER SERGEANT CHARLES EDWIN EATON

HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 14, 2008

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Charles Edwin "Cotton" Eaton. On December 26, 2007, Cotton Eaton's family, the community of Athens, Texas and this country lost another hero in America's greatest generation. Born and raised in Navarro County in Texas, Cotton Eaton went on to serve his country proudly in the United States Army during World War II in the South Pacific. In peacetime, Cotton Eaton put his entrepreneurial spirit to work for this country as he owned and operated the Eaton Motor Company in Athens, Texas before retiring in 1988. Cotton Eaton's wit and spirited nature, anchored by a commitment to his family and community, earned him the respect of so many. Despite his own extraordinary contributions, Cotton Eaton always celebrated the gratitude of God's goodness in life.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize this true American hero and offer my condolences to Cotton Eaton's wife of 67 years, Dorothy, their two children, Janice and John, and their grandchildren and great-grand children.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Charles Edwin "Cotton" Eaton.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JOHN W. CUNNINGHAM

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 14, 2008

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with the heaviest of hearts that I rise today to pay tribute to a good friend and outstanding leader in the labor movement, John W. Cunningham. His passing marks the end of an era at the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America Local Union 210 and the loss of a dear friend to many across Connecticut.

John was a carpenter. He worked hard all of his life and his commitment to the labor movement as well as his membership is unequalled. Joining Local 210 in 1956, just 10 years later he became a business representative and would serve the next 30 years as the General Agent of Carpenters Local Union 210. He was active both locally and nationally—fighting for policies and protections for his membership and working men and women across the country. In addition to his service with Local 210, John also served as the Vice-President of the Connecticut State AFL-CIO, President of the Stamford Labor Council, and President of the New England Regional Council of Carpenters. There was no stronger advocate or determined voice than that of John Cunningham.

John was responsible for the creation of the Carpenter's Legislative Improvement Committee which was the first federal political action committee established by a local union—providing a voice for carpenters' issues at the national level. And in the early 1990s John

formed the President's Committee with other union leaders which strengthened the Brotherhood nationally by providing new leadership and making it more responsive to the needs of its members. John was also instrumental in opening the doors of opportunity to women and minorities by implanting outreach programs which brought them into the trade.

John's efforts on behalf of working families extended far beyond his work to shape public policy. During his tenure, he created the Connecticut Carpenters' Health and Pension Fund and established Local 210's Scholarship fund which assisted members' children in pursuing higher education. He launched an apprenticeship and training program and began a program of inviting union members and the public to forums where they would hear from speakers that included Nobel Laureates, Pulitzer Prize authors, economists, and elected leaders. Perhaps most telling of his civic minded nature was his leadership during the National Building Trade Council's efforts to help the families of the 28 construction workers killed at the L'Ambiance construction disaster in 1987.

John understood the importance of serving one's community. He was an active member of the Weston community where he served on a number of boards and commissions, including the School Building Committee, the Town Building Committee, Planning & Zoning, Little League Baseball, and was a founding member of the Weston Booster Club. He was an extraordinary man who dedicated countless hours to making all the difference in the lives of thousands.

I join all of his friends and colleagues in extending my deepest sympathies to John's wife, Virginia, his six children; Kimberly, Devon, Bill, John, Caroline, and Diana, as well as his seven grandchildren; Chalan, Maeveren, Conor, Brennen, Makena, Samuel, and Geneva. I am honored to have this opportunity to pay tribute to the life of John W. Cunningham. His is a legacy that will continue to inspire generations to come.

RELATING TO THE CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5724, UNITED STATES-COLOMBIA TRADE PROMOTIONS AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 1092, a rule to suspend fast track procedures for the U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement (FTA). U.S. trade policy should promote democracy based on the protection of fundamental human rights. However, by sending the Colombia FTA to Congress, President Bush has disregarded the rights of workers in Colombia and the needs of working families in the U.S.

Since the 1980s, more than 2,500 workers have been assassinated in Colombia for joining, forming, or leading labor unions. More unionists are killed in Colombia each year than the rest of the world combined. We should not be engaging in free trade policies with a nation whose human rights record is so abysmal.

Our Nation's economy is struggling. The United States lost a record of 80,000 jobs in the month of March alone. The cities in the 32nd Congressional District that I represent have seen unemployment rates soar to more than 7 percent. In this time of economic turmoil, Congress must work to restore the economic security of working- and middle-class Americans.

This rule prioritizes the needs of American workers by removing the timeline for House action on this trade agreement. I strongly support this rule and urge my colleagues to vote for final passage.

RECOGNIZING EDWARD M. SMITH,
PRESIDENT OF THE UNION
LABOR LIFE INSURANCE COM-
PANY

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 14, 2008

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Edward M. Smith, as he accepts his new position as President of the Union Labor Life Insurance Company, ULLICO, and retires as Vice President, Assistant to the General President, and Midwest Regional Manager of the Laborers' International Union of North America, LIUNA.

Ed Smith was born into a union family. His father was the business manager of Local 773, and would continue in that position until his retirement. His mother was also a 15-year member of the union. So it seemed natural that, at the age of 13, Ed Smith would join Laborers' Local 773, in Cairo, Illinois, and work his way through school as a construction craft laborer.

At the age of 21, when many young men are yet to chart their career course, Ed was elected as business manager of the local union. While serving as business manager, Ed continued to expand his role within the Laborers' Union. In 1981, he was appointed International Representative for the International Union and was later appointed LIUNA legislative director for the State of Illinois. Ed was elected President of the Southern Illinois Laborers' District Council in 1986 and Business Manager in 1990.

Ed has served on a number of Union entities, including the Laborers' National Pension Fund, as Chairman of the Central Laborers' Pension Fund, Laborers' Home Development Corporation, Laborers' International Federal Employees Credit Union, Southern Illinois Laborers' Fringe Benefit Funds, Railroad Maintenance Health & Welfare Fund, and the Illinois Laborers' & Contractors Joint Apprenticeship & Training Fund.

Ed does not limit his involvement to the Laborers' Union. He was Chairman of the Illinois State Board of Investment, serves as a member of the Illinois Department of Labor Advisory Board, the Democratic National Committee, and is chairman of the National Alliance for Fair Contracting. Ed has also been a major benefactor to the Therapy Center in Carterville, Illinois, an organization that assists physically disabled children, and he serves as a board member of the "I Can Read Program" which helps children with reading and learning disabilities.

Ed graduated from Shawnee College with an Associate of Arts degree and, in 1992, he received Shawnee College's first Outstanding Alumni Award. Ed was the first member of the Laborers' International Union to graduate from the National Labor College with a bachelor's degree and, in 1978, he graduated from the Harvard University Trade Union Program.

Ed and his wife, Betty, reside in Olive Branch, Illinois. Ed has two children, a daughter, Jordan, and a son, Matt.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in an expression of appreciation to Mr. Edward M. Smith, a true champion of organized labor, and to wish him our best as he embarks on his new position as President of the Union Labor Life Insurance Company.

HONORING EDWARD H. LEWIS AS
HE IS HONORED BY THE GREAT-
ER NEW HAVEN NAACP

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 14, 2008

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the Greater New Haven NAACP and the New Haven community in extending my sincere congratulations to my dear friend, Edward H. Lewis, as he is honored at this year's Freedom Fund Awards dinner with the Lifetime Achievement Award.

The Freedom Fund Awards dinner is a time not only to honor those who have made an impact on our community, but to renew our commitment to those ideals upon which the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was founded. For nearly nine decades, the Greater New Haven NAACP has been the voice of our African-American community and has improved countless lives. Their fight for justice has been tireless, and their efforts have gone a long way toward making sure that everyone will enjoy equal opportunity. Those honored with the annual Freedom Fund Awards are a reflection of this organization's good work—of the NAACP's commitment to ensuring a promising future for our families, our children, and our communities.

Edward H. Lewis, known to family and friends as "Teo," is a native of my hometown, New Haven, Connecticut and we could not be more proud of all that he has accomplished. I have been fortunate to know him for many years and consider myself blessed to call him my friend. We worked as community organizers together at the Community Action Institute and later, served together in the National Urban Fellow Program. Teo went to Washington as a legislative assistant to then Senator Henry Jackson and was appointed by President Jimmy Carter to the U.S. Small Business Administration as Associate Administrator for Procurement. After leaving Washington, he brought his wealth of government experience to the emerging cable industry. He has worked in several capacities but is perhaps best known for his work with BET networks where his work in marketing and event promotion for both BET and BET on Jazz redefined the title of Director of Marketing. Today, Teo is Vice President of Government Relations for the NBA's Charlotte Bobcats

where he is utilizing his multitude of talents to develop both local and state government relationships as well as build a positive relationship with the business community. He is a remarkable individual whose professional life has always enriched the surrounding community.

In addition to his innumerable professional contributions, Teo has also devoted countless hours to a number of civic and social organizations. He currently serves on the board of the Freedom Theater in Philadelphia, the advisory committee for the International Association of Jazz Educators, on the Board of Trustees at Discovery Place Charlotte North Carolina, as well as on the Board of Directors at Theater Charlotte, WTVI Public Television, and the Bobby Phills Foundation. He is also a member of the Charlotte Rotary, 100 Black Men of Charlotte, the Business Committee on Higher Education for the Institute for Emerging Issues and the advisory board for the Mint Museum and the Mint Museum of Craft and Design. There are few like Teo who give so much of themselves back to their communities—he is a community treasure.

To be awarded with the Greater NAACP's Lifetime Achievement Award is a reflection of all that Teo has accomplished as a community member, advocate, professional, volunteer, mentor and friend. For his many invaluable contributions to the community and to those ideals at the very heart of the NAACP, I am proud to join his children Todd, Kimberly, Derek, and Barry, as well as all of those gathered this evening in extending my deepest thanks and appreciation to Edward H. Lewis as he is bestowed with this very special honor by the Greater New Haven NAACP. His is a legacy that is sure to inspire many generations to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 14, 2008

Mr. ROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I would like to state for the RECORD my position on the following votes I missed on April 8 and 9, 2008.

On Tuesday, April 8, and Wednesday, April 9, 2008, I was unable to be present in the Capitol due to a family illness and thus missed rollcall vote Nos. 161 through 172. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

On rollcall vote No. 161, on H.J. Res. 70, a resolution congratulating the Army Reserve on its centennial, which will be formally celebrated on April 23, 2008, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote No. 162, on H.R. 2464, the Wakefield Act, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote No. 163, on S. 793, the Traumatic Brain Injury Act of 2008, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote Nos. 164 and 165, which were procedural votes that provided for consideration of the bill H.R. 2016, to establish the National Landscape Conservation System, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote No. 166, on H. Res. 1077, which called on the Government of the Peoples Republic of China to end its crackdown in

Tibet and to enter into a substantive dialogue with His Holiness the Dalai Lama to find a negotiated solution that respects the distinctive language, culture, religious identity, and fundamental freedom of all Tibetans, I would have proudly voted "aye."

On rollcall vote No. 167, on the Grijalva Amendment to H.R. 2016, The National Landscape Conservation System Act, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote No. 168, on the Bishop (UT) (#3) Amendment number 3 to H.R. 2016, The National Landscape Conservation System Act, I would have voted "nay."

On rollcall vote No. 169, on the Bishop (UT) (#4) Amendment to H.R. 2016, The National Landscape Conservation System Act, I would have voted "nay."

On rollcall vote No. 170, on the Bishop (UT) (#5) Amendment to H.R. 2016, The National Landscape Conservation System Act, I would have voted "nay."

On rollcall vote No. 171, on the Altmire/Carney Amendment to H.R. 2016, The National Landscape Conservation System Act, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote No. 172, on the Pearce Amendment to H.R. 2016, The National Landscape Conservation System Act, I would have voted "nay."

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PRAIRIE CENTER HEALTH SYSTEMS, INC.

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 14, 2008

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 40th anniversary of the Prairie Center Health Systems, Inc. (Prairie Center) in Champaign-Urbana, Illinois. The Prairie Center has provided affordable, effective drug and alcohol education and treatment to the communities of Illinois since 1968.

The Prairie Center originated in 1968 with three grassroots organizations: the Mustard Seed Club, the Champaign County Council on Alcoholism and the Gemini House. Today, the Prairie Center is responsive to the needs of Ford and Vermilion County as well as the 7,000 annual residents in need of substance abuse services.

The Prairie Center provides a variety of substance abuse services. These services include school-based prevention education, community education, early intervention counseling, outpatient care, DUI services, adult inpatient care and detoxification care. Regardless of the service the Prairie Center follows their vision to help people improve their lives.

Today the Prairie Center has expanded to three locations and provides numerous outreach services throughout Central Illinois. On behalf of the people who have benefited from these services, I thank the Prairie Center for their work and look forward to their next 40 years.

I hope all of you will join me in recognizing the services provided by the Prairie Center that restore the lives, families and communities of Illinois.

THE ABUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN BURMA

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 14, 2008

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, the bloody crackdown on innocent, peaceful protesters by Burma's brutal regime last fall shocked the world. Over 30 people were killed, hundreds were injured, and as many as 1,000 people arrested during and after the protests. It was startling even by the standards by which we have come to judge this military regime.

Last week the Congressional Human Rights Caucus welcomed three courageous witnesses to this travesty, U Kovida, U Gawsita, and U Pannysasiri, Burmese Buddhist monks who were beaten and abused by this regime, but have become advocates for their people. I would like to submit their testimonies for the record.

After the initial outrage over the government's actions last fall, I'm afraid that many people moved on, and the plight of the Burmese people has passed again from public consciousness. This is why it was so important for us to hear these distinguished witnesses, peaceful and courageous men who stood up for their people in the face of this violent suppression. By giving them an opportunity to describe what they went through—and what their countrymen and women continue to go through—we can help refocus attention on Burma.

In February, the regime announced that it would hold a national referendum on a new constitution in May 2008. They said that if the constitution were approved, they would hold a "multi-party election" in 2010. I, for one, however, have no faith in pronouncements from these thugs that they are ready to end military rule; the closed process of drafting the constitution and the extensive ongoing military role in the proposed system are obvious problems. And, of course, the exclusion of opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi—still locked up under house arrest—is completely unacceptable.

Meanwhile, we search for ways to compel this regime to respect human rights. We in Congress have addressed the issue many times since the 1988 massacres. I have chaired multiple hearings on human rights abuses in Burma and we have addressed the situation through legislation aimed at the regime. Just this fall, I was honored to co-sponsor legislation authored by that great friend of Burma, Chairman TOM LANTOS. The Block Burmese JADE act would level new restrictions on the military government.

But the emboldened dictators continue their course of abuse—extra-judicial killings, torture, rape, forced labor, and of course, tight control over speech, the press and assembly.

They are supported by patrons in Beijing, who are happily preparing for the Olympics as they bankroll these thugs to the tune of \$2 to \$3 billion in military aid since the early 1990s, \$200 million of economic aid annually, and billions of dollars in investment and trade.

Congress has discussed the role of the Chinese in Darfur, and recently Madam Speaker, I co-sponsored your timely resolution calling upon the Chinese to end their violent crack-

down in Tibet. However, we cannot forget the Chinese role in supporting repression in Burma.

When the world watches the Olympic games from China, I hope at least some of the viewers think of the Burmese political prisoners—perhaps 1,800 of them—suffering in the prisons that the Chinese support. They are enduring what one former prisoner has called the closest thing to hell on earth that he could imagine.

TESTIMONY OF U KOVIDA BEFORE THE CONGRESSIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CAUCUS, APRIL 10, 2008

Honorable Congressmen, staff members, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I would like, first of all, to offer my sincere THANKS to all of you who have given me a chance to share what I have experienced and those who are here to listen and pay attention to what I have to say. Secondly, I would like to thank the President of the United States and the American people for giving me this opportunity to explain the predicament and dire situation the people are facing in Burma on behalf of our leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the oppressed Burmese.

I am, as you all know, one of the participants during the so-called "Saffron-Revolution" in September 2007. Burma is infamous for its violation of Basic Human Rights, disrespect to the freedom of religion, one of the least developed and poorest countries in the world with the lowest living standard where the civil war has been going on for the past 50 years.

These are the reasons why we, people of Burma, have wanted a change in the government system. We have wanted to have a higher live standard, and live in a better and developed country. The people in Burma have struggled and fought for change since 1962. We have struggled and fought to achieve such change throughout the history and the demonstrations and protests in 1962, 1974, 1988, 1996, 2003, and 2007 are significant. But all of our voices, pleas and struggles were answered by the brutality of the military government which used weapons, brutal suppressions, torture, and imprisonments.

The international community witnessed the brutal suppression of monks who demonstrated peacefully in September 2007. But there have been many incidents of oppressions, violation and torture that have been going on inside Burma without anyone knowing for many decades.

What I would like to point out here in the harmless and helpless Burmese have very high hope and are depending on the assistance and intervention from the United Nations and the international community in the past 20 years. Sadly and unfortunately, there hasn't been any positive effect on the people of Burma. There were so many decisions by the United Nations. There were many U.N. representatives who have visited Burma, but the future looks bleak. We were greatly discouraged by the fact that the Security Council merely suggested the military which was killing its own people and monks, to engage in talks. What I am saying to you now is exactly what the people of Burma would like to speak out.

Ladies and gentlemen, the people of Burma are not only suffering from extreme poverty, hardship, substandard in health care, education and social services but also facing oppression by the military government on a daily basis. When monks in Burma understood, realized, and felt the hardship the people had to go through, we decided to protest peacefully on behalf of the people. And everyone knows how we were dealt with. We appreciate that you are trying to oppose the constitution drafted by the military and its

hand picked representatives. We strongly support your effort at the UN to reject any referendum and constitutions without the participation of all people concerned.

Right now the military government is planning to have a constitutional referendum in May. In many areas in Burma, people are illegally forced as well as offered financial incentives to vote. In other areas, people are threatened. Some of the activists were brutally beaten up by unknown assailants very recently. The closer the May referendum is, the more scared and concerned the people are about their safety and security. Securities have been tightened inside Rangoon. Police and security forces are deployed on the main streets of Rangoon.

Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to emphasize the fact that we need help and assistance in order to change the government system in Burma. We cannot accept the constitutional referendum and planned general election in 2010 organized by the military government which totally ignored the results of people's voices in 1990 general election, and whose sole aim is to prolong and ensure the military influence in Burma politics for many more years to come. We strongly urge you to reject any effort by the military government to legitimize itself.

In conclusion, I would like to thank once again the international community, governments and administrations, respected congressmen as well as the people who love democracy and who are supporting our course. I thank the Refugee International to facilitate my appearance here at the Congress.

UNITED STATES CONGRESSIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CAUCUS BRIEFING ON BURMA, APRIL 10, 2008, TESTIMONY OF U GAWSITA

Honorable Congressmen, Ladies and Gentlemen.

First of all, I would like to thank all of you for here today and allowing me to speak.

My name is U Gawsita, a Buddhist Monk from Burma. Until before I left from Burma, I was at the Maggin Monastery, in Thingan Gyun Township in Rangoon, studying Buddha's teaching of Dharma and working social assistance works. The Maggin Monastery was not only a religious center, but also a sanctuary for orphans and HIV/AIDS infected persons, who were ignored by the military government. Our monastery was also a gathering place of democracy activists and human rights defenders, and therefore, it was constantly watched by the junta.

On September 5, 2007, Buddhist monks in Pakkoku Township in Upper Burma, who marched in the streets peacefully with reciting the Metta Sutra, Buddhist teaching of Loving-Kindness, were severely attacked, arrested and tortured by the authorities. As we couldn't tolerate such an insult to the monks, who are highly respected by the people of Burma, and to respond the injustices done by the junta, Buddhist monks all over the country founded a coalition called the "All Burma Monks' Alliance (ABMA)" on September 9, under the leadership of six leading monks. I was a founding member of the ABMA since its inception. The ABMA issued an ultimatum to the military junta, calling it to apologize to the monks, whom they have insulted in Pakkoku, no later than September 17. ABMA also claimed that if they do not, ABMA would start an ex-communicative boycott, which we called in Pali, Patta Nikuzana Kan, against the Burmese military junta and their family members. The Patta Nikuzana Kan is a strong action of monks against those who have insulted or attacked the members of religious order. Since the day this action is effective, monks refuse to accept food offer and donation from those who attacked and insulted the Bud-

dhism and Buddhist monks, and refuse to perform religious blessing on them. I and my fellow monks made copies of this ABMA statement and distributed among the public secretly.

As the authorities refused to apologize to the monks, and they even accused that these monks in Pakkoku were bogus ones, the ABMA instructed all monks in the country on September 18 to begin an ex-communicative boycott against the junta. As instructed, I organized other monks and to take a vow to participate in the ex-communicative boycott at an ordination center inside the compound of Kyaikkasan Pagoda on September 18, 2007.

As we all, over 70 monks, gathered, over 150 security forces, police and intelligence officials came to us and threatened to disperse. We then left from that place, moved to another Pagoda, called Kyauk Sardaw, and took a vow together. Then, as we have planned before; we all marched towards the Sule Pagoda in downtown Rangoon while reciting the Metta Sutra. It was the beginning of the peaceful protests led by Buddhist monks in Burma that shocked not only the country, but also the world. Since September 18, monks in various parts of the country gathered at one particular place, marched in the streets towards a prominent Pagoda in the town, with reciting Metta Sutra, daily. In Rangoon, we gathered at the Shwedagon Pagoda and then peacefully marched towards the Sule Pagoda in downtown Rangoon while reciting Metta Sutra. People from all walks of life welcomed and helped us wholeheartedly and since September 24, they also joined with monks in the march in hundreds of thousands.

From September 26, the military junta began to crack down on the peaceful march by use of violence. Security forces threw tear gas canisters at the crowd, beat the protesters with rubber sticks and shot them with automatic rifles. Under the excessive use of violence by the junta, nearly 200 monks and lay people were killed and over 7,000 were arrested nationwide. I was also beaten on my head. We continued the peaceful march on September 27 and security forces brutally attacked the protesters at least three places in Rangoon, in front of the Sule Pagoda, in the Wayzayanda Street in South Okkalapa Township and in front of State High School No. 3 in Tamwe. Security forces raided about 60 monasteries and arrested over 2,000 monks. Monks were forced to disrobe in interrogation centers and severely tortured. At least 20 more monks were killed during the interrogation.

Maggin monastery was raided twice, on the nights of September 26 and October 3, by the security forces and almost all of monks and civilian assistants were arrested. I was hiding in some place, and therefore, escaped from the arrest. On November 29, the authorities forcibly shut down the Maggin monastery and forced the 80-year-old senior monk Ashin Nandiya, some novices and HIV/AIDS patients to leave the monastery. I hid in many places before I reached to Thai-Burma border on December 5, 2007. As assisted by the U.S. Government and Congress, I was permitted to resettle in the U.S. and arrived here on March 11, 2008.

I am now at a safe and secure place. However, my fellow monks and the people of Burma are still suffering a lot under the oppressive rule of the brutal military junta. Therefore, I would like to urge the United States to lead an initiative to have an effective action from the U.N. Security Council.

I heard that late Congressman Tom Lantos and Senators Joseph Biden and Mitch McConnell have introduced two legislations, banning importation of jades and precious stones from Burma, imposing more targeted

financial and banking sanctions against the Burmese generals, family members and crony businesspersons. It has been more than six months since the bloody crackdown on my fellow citizens in Burma by the brutal military junta. But, final decisions on these legislations have not been reached yet. Therefore, I would like to urge members of Congress to adopt these legislations as soon as possible.

In coming May, the military junta will forcibly approve its constitution, designed to legalize the military dictatorship, though the referendum. I would like to urge the U.S. and international governments to not recognize this sham constitution. I know that Congressmen Holt, Berman and Ros-Lehtinen have introduced legislation, calling for the United States to not recognize the junta's constitution. I also want to urge the Congress to adopt this resolution as soon as possible.

Thank you.

UNITED STATES CONGRESSIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CAUCUS BRIEFING ON BURMA, APRIL 10, 2008, TESTIMONY OF U PANNYAR THI RI

Honorable Congressmen, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I would like to thank all of you for here today.

My name is U Pannyyar Thi Ri, a Burmese Buddhist monk from Zay Ta Wun Monastery in Tha Ke Ta Township in Rangoon.

When the Burmese military junta has suddenly increased gas and fuel prices in August 2007, and subsequently the people of Burma began to stage peaceful walks in the streets, I was studying Buddhist teaching of Dharma at a Monastery in Thar Ke Ta Township in Rangoon. I have witnessed the brutal crackdown by the military junta against the peaceful protesters led by the 88 Generation Students. I also learned that my fellow monks in Pakkoku Township in Upper Burma were beaten and arrested by the authorities on September 5, while they were walking in streets, reciting Metta Sutra (Loving-Kindness) to help the suffering of the people of Burma. As I can't tolerate these injustices, I joined with my fellow monks in Rangoon in the peaceful walks, by reciting the Metta Sutra, since September 22, 2007.

I would like to tell you one of my own experiences which happened on September 26. When I was at nearby the Shwedagon Pagoda together with my fellow monks that day, hundreds of security forces came in, surrounded us and blocked the streets. Then they threw tear gas canisters at us. When we were demobilizing under the smoke and dark, they attacked us with rubber sticks. Then they also burned a motorcycle and claimed that it was burned by monks. We dispersed for a moment under the attack, but later remobilize again and marched towards the Sule Pagoda in downtown Rangoon, where we intended to meet with other monks. Many monks were injured and blood-stained, but they kept their peace constantly and citing the Metta sutra continuously.

On September 27, even under the attack and blockade by the security forces, I and five other monks led a peaceful protest, with the participation of nearly 100,000 people, which ended at the Sule Pagoda. While marching in the street, Japanese reporter Kanji Nagai was along with us, taking pictures of the protest. When we reached an overpass nearby the Sule Pagoda, security forces arrived with three army trucks and shot in the air and among the crowd with their automatic rifles.

In front of my eyes, Japanese reporter Nagai and another protester were fatally shot and a monk was shot in his arm. The

marching crowd was dispersed under the flying bullets and I had to hide in a restaurant. And the wife of the restaurant owner sent me back to the monastery in Tha Ke Ta at 7 p.m. with her car. At that night, security forces came in with five army trucks and tried to raid the monasteries in Tha Ke Ta. As alarmed by the monks, hundreds of people from the neighborhood came in time to intervene the attempts of security forces, and therefore they left without success. And again, on September 29, at 1 a.m., security forces came to raid the monasteries with 10 army trucks. Local residents gathered quickly and defended the monasteries from the raid of the soldiers, and therefore, they withdrew. However, a civilian was shot to death and his body was stolen by the security forces.

Therefore, I fled to Taung Twin Gyi Township on September 30 to hide. When I came back to Rangoon stealthily on October 8, I met with a monk, who is friend of mine, was arrested on September 27 and then released. He told me that he was forced to disrobe in prison and beaten throughout interrogation. The interrogators show him photos of monks leading the protest and asked him to expose who they are. He saw my photo among them. And that's why, he suggested me to run away and hide. Therefore, I left Rangoon immediately and then led a secret journey to Thai-Burma border, where I reached on November 7, 2007. Then, as assisted by the United States Government and Congress, I arrived to the United States on March 11, 2008, as a refugee.

The objectives of the peaceful protests in Burma, led by Buddhist monks, students and people are for releasing of all political prisoners including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and realizing of a meaningful and time-bound dialogue between the military junta and democratic forces for mutually acceptable political changes. As long as the military junta continues to listen to the voices of the people of Burma and oppress the people by using violence, peaceful protests by monks and the people will continue. The only way to stop the violence of the military junta is an effective and decisive action from the U.N. Security Council. Therefore, I would like to request the United States Government to try to get the effective resolution from the UNSC by organizing the members

of the UNSC, especially China and Russia, to help the people of Burma.

Thank you.

HONORING CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY ACTION AS THEY CELEBRATE THEIR 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 14, 2008

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the New Haven community in celebrating the 40th anniversary of Christian Community Action. For four decades this outstanding agency has been providing invaluable services to those most in need and I am proud to wish them the very best as they mark this important milestone.

The story of Christian Community Action begins with a home on Congress Avenue destroyed by fire and a group of ecumenical Catholics and Protestants looking for a way to help. Since that time, Christian Community Action has grown and evolved into a well-respected resource for individuals and families in need as well as a vocal advocate for the impoverished, working to change the systems which perpetuate poverty and injustice. Through the extraordinary vision and commitment of its leadership, Christian Community Action has made all the difference in the lives of many.

Reverend David Nehring became the first director of Christian Community Action in 1967 and it was under his direction that the organization's mission was developed and their first emergency food program was started. Just 3 years later, Reverend Nehring supervised the agency's move to its current home at 168 Davenport Avenue, adding five apartments which were used to provide emergency shelter. It was under the direction of the center's second director, Reverend Phil Grigsby, that the agency became involved in the develop-

ment of the New Haven Fuel Bank and that the adjacent property at 166 Davenport Avenue was purchased providing three additional apartments. Reverend Karl Hilgert became the agency's third director in 1981. It was through his vision that Christian Community Action opened the Sylvan Avenue Shelter site adding another ten emergency apartments and that the agency began increasing its social service and case management programs for the residents of its emergency housing.

In 1988, Christian Community Action's fourth and current director, Reverend Bonita Grubbs, took the helm and it has been under her nearly 20 years of outstanding leadership that the agency has substantially grown. Today, Christian Community Action not only provides emergency food, housing and support for those facing unexpected crisis such as fires and evictions, but is now actively involved in helping families to attain self-sufficiency through a myriad of innovative initiatives. The Stepping Stone Transitional Housing Program, Health Advocacy Voices Emerging Network, Mothers for Justice, and the Program for Internships, Vocational Opportunities and Training program are just a few examples of how Christian Community Action is identifying needs within our community and working to actively address those issues impacting the poor and those who often cannot find a voice.

For the last 40 years, Christian Community Action has been a beacon of hope for those most in need. Through their advocacy and social services, this organization has touched the lives of thousands throughout Greater New Haven and across Connecticut. I am proud to stand today to extend my sincere and heartfelt congratulations to all of those, past and present, whose involvement with Christian Community Action and commitment to its mission has made this organization such a success. It is difficult to imagine what our community would be like without that compassion and generosity. Happy 40th anniversary and my very best wishes for many more years of continued success.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, April 15, 2008 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

APRIL 16

9:30 a.m.

Appropriations
Defense Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the Department of Defense medical programs.

SD-192

9:45 a.m.

Appropriations
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2009 for the Department of Education, focusing on teacher quality.

SD-138

10 a.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
To hold hearings to examine U.S. credit markets, focusing on proposals to mitigate foreclosures and restore liquidity to the mortgage markets.

SD-538

Environment and Public Works
Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine surface transportation and the global economy.

SD-406

2 p.m.

Appropriations
Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget request for fiscal year 2009 for the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

SD-124

Judiciary

Crime and Drugs Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine violence and exploitation in the 21st century, focusing on solutions for protecting our children.

SD-226

Appropriations

Energy and Water Development Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2009 for the Department of Energy.

SD-138

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
Housing, Transportation and Community Development Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine affordable housing opportunities, focusing on reforming the housing voucher program.

SD-538

2:30 p.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Robert J. Callahan, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Nicaragua; Heather M. Hodges, of Ohio, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Costa Rica; Barbara J. Stephenson, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Panama; Peter E. Cianchette, of Maine, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Costa Rica; Hugo Llorens, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Honduras; Stephen George McFarland, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Guatemala, all of the Department of State; and Samuel W. Speck, of Ohio, to be a Commissioner on the part of the United States on the International Joint Commission, United States and Canada.

SD-419

Armed Services

Personnel Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2009 on military beneficiary organizations regarding the quality of life of Active, Reserve, and retired military personnel and their members, and the future years defense program.

SR-232A

Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine the impact of the credit market on small businesses.

SR-428A

3 p.m.

Appropriations

Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2009 for the Internal Revenue Service.

SD-192

Aging

To hold hearings to examine caring for the elderly, focusing on how to support those on the front line.

SD-562

APRIL 17

10 a.m.

Finance

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of David Gustafson, of Virginia, Richard T. Morrison, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court, and Elizabeth Crewson Paris, of the District of Columbia, all to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court, and Eric M. Thorson, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, and Edwin Eck, of Montana, to be a Member of the Internal Revenue Service Oversight Board, both of the Department of the Treasury.

SD-215

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine S. 2533, to enact a safe, fair, and responsible state secrets privilege Act, S. 702, to authorize the Attorney General to award grants to State courts to develop and implement State courts interpreter programs, and the nominations of Michael G. McGinn, to be United States Marshal for the District of Minnesota, and Ralph E. Martinez, of Florida, to be a Member of the Foreign Claims

Settlement Commission of the United States, both of the Department of Justice.

SD-226

Appropriations

Military Construction and Veterans' Affairs, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2009 for Military Construction.

SD-124

Appropriations

Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) safety and modernization performance.

SD-138

10:30 a.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the National Indian Gaming Commission.

SD-562

2 p.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
State, Local, and Private Sector Preparedness and Integration Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine fusion centers, focusing on a recent progress report.

SD-342

Energy and Natural Resources

Water and Power Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the United States Bureau of Reclamation, focusing on issues associated with aging water resource infrastructure.

SD-366

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

To hold hearings to examine Armenia and the United States, focusing on Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) negotiations on Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia's qualifications for assistance from the Millennium Challenge Account.

B-318, Rayburn Building

2:30 p.m.

Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

APRIL 22

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the future of the Internet.

SR-253

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission, focusing on a recent report on moving passengers and freight into the future.

SR-253

Energy and Natural Resources

Public Lands and Forests Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine S. 934 and H.R. 1374, bills to amend the Florida National Forest Land Management Act of 2003 to authorize the conveyance of an additional tract of National Forest System land under that Act, S. 2833, to provide for the management of certain public land in Owyhee County, Idaho, and S. 2834, to establish wilderness areas, promote conservation, and improve public land in Washington County, Utah.

SD-366

APRIL 23

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine an update on the Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense cooperation and collaboration.

SR-418

10 a.m.

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine National Security Letters, focusing on the need for greater accountability and oversight.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine phantom traffic.

SR-253

APRIL 24

10:30 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Business meeting to consider S. 2688, to improve the protections afforded under Federal law to consumers from contaminated seafood by directing the Secretary of Commerce to establish a program, in coordination with other appropriate Federal agencies, to strengthen activities for ensuring that seafood sold or offered for sale to the public in or affecting interstate commerce is fit for human consumption, S.J. Res. 28, disapproving the rule submitted by the Federal Communications Commission with respect to broadcast media ownership, S. 2607, to make a technical correction to section 3009 of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, H.R. 3985, to amend title 49, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Transportation to register a person providing transportation by an over-the-road bus as a motor carrier of passengers only if the person is willing and able to comply with certain accessibility requirements in addition to other existing requirements, H.R. 802, to amend the Act to Prevent Pollution

from Ships to implement MARPOL Annex VI, and the nomination of Robert A. Sturgell, of Maryland, to be Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration.

SR-253

2:15 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

Water and Power Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine S. 2680, to amend the Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992 to require the Secretary of the Interior to take certain actions to address environmental problems associated with the Leadville Mine Drainage Tunnel in the State of Colorado, S. 2805, to direct the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Commissioner of Reclamation, to assess the irrigation infrastructure of the Rio Grande Pueblos in the State of New Mexico and provide grants to, and enter into cooperative agreements with, the Rio Grande Pueblos to repair, rehabilitate, or reconstruct existing infrastructure, S. 2814, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide financial assistance to the Eastern New Mexico Rural Water Authority for the planning, design, and construction of the Eastern New Mexico Rural Water System, H.R. 29, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to construct facilities to provide water for irrigation, municipal, domestic, military, and other uses from the Santa Margarita River, California, H.R. 1803, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a feasibility study to design and construct a four reservoir intertie system for the purposes of improving the water storage opportunities, water supply reliability, and water yield of San Vicente, El Capitan, Murray, and Loveland Reservoirs in San Diego County, California in consultation and cooperation with the City of San Diego and the Sweetwater Authority, and H.R. 123, to authorize appropriations for the San Gabriel Basin Restoration Fund.

SD-366

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Science, Technology, and Innovation Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine national nanotechnology, focusing on charting the course for reauthorization.

SR-253

APRIL 29

10:30 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Interstate Commerce, Trade, and Tourism Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine improving consumer protection in subprime home lending.

SR-253

APRIL 30

10 a.m.

Rules and Administration

To hold hearings to examine electronic voting systems, focusing on top-to-bottom inquiries by Secretaries of State.

SR-301

MAY 1

9:30 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine military build-up on Guam, focusing on the impact on civilian community, planning, and response.

SD-366

MAY 7

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine pending benefits legislation.

SR-418

MAY 21

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine pending health care legislation.

SR-418